In the claims

Please amend claims 11 and 48 as follows:

11. (thrice amended) A thin film magnetic recording head having a pair of gaps formed between three pole pieces, said gaps being substantially aligned to successively traverse the same portion of a recording medium as the head is moved thereacross, the center pole piece having a [single] planar thin film coil wrapped therearound for magnetically energizing each of said gaps.

48. (twice amended) In a thin film magnetic recording head having a planar thin film magnetic coil, a first pole piece P_1 substantially underlying a first half of said magnetic coil, and a second pole piece P_2 substantially overlying the first half of said magnetic coil, the pole pieces P_1 and P_2 together defining a write gap, the improvement comprising an extension of the pole piece P_1 which substantially underlies a second half of the magnetic coil, and a third pole piece P_3 that substantially overlies the second half of the magnetic coil and the pole piece P_2, the pole pieces P_2 and P_3 together defining a preconditioning gap, said preconditioning gap being substantially aligned with said write gap for ~~immediately~~ traversing ~~the same~~ portion of a recording medium as said write gap ~~as the head~~ is moved ~~thereacross~~, said magnetic coil energizing both of said gaps.

and Preconditioning G before
being capable of simultaneously

REMARKS

In the Office Action of Paper No. 15, all of the pending claims were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,672,493 to Schewe. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Schewe discloses a thin film magnetic recording head having dual gaps, where the gaps are magnetically energized using two planar thin film coil windings in one embodiment, or a single (but not planar) thin film coil winding in another embodiment. Specifically, Fig. 1 of Schewe discloses a magnetic recording head 2 which is provided with "a coil device 18 which is formed, according to the embodiment of Fig. 1, by two single or multilayer flat coil windings 19 and 20." See column 4, lines 50-53. The two coil windings 19 and 20 are arranged in parallel planes, as can be seen in Fig. 1.

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